

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00216 01 OF 02 152116Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 EB-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /089 W

----- 043020

O 151915Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2014

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0216

39 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NL NS

SUBJ: REALM TALKS BRING OPPOSITION TURBULENCE

1. ON EVE OF FINAL SURINAM INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE AND ARRIVAL PRIMEMIN DEN UYL TO LEAD DUTCH DELEGATION, ACTS ATTRIBUTED TO EAST INDIAN EXTREMISTS IN MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY (VHP) HAVE CAUSED UNUSUAL TENSION IN THIS TRANQUIL CAPITAL. CHIEF AMONG THESE WAS APPARENT ATTEMPT TO BURN DOWN STATEN (PARLIAMENT) BUILDING EARLY THIS MORNING, TOGETHER WITH TWO SMALLER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND DUTCH STEAMSHIP OFFICE. SMALL FIRES WERE QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED WITHOUT DAMAGE TO PREMISES. ONE INDIAN ARRESTED AND HELD FOR QUESTIONING. EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY MEASURES ARE IN EFFECT WITH POLICE, DUTCH ARMY AND FIRE BRIGADE ON FULL ALERT.

2. FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS VHP CHAIRMAN LACHMON AND PARTY LEADERS HAVE HELD SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH FOLLOWERS IN PARAMARIBO AND IN DISTRICTS (WHERE MOST INDIANS LIVE) TO ORGANIZE MASS DEMONSTRATION AND STREET PROCESSION, AND CLOSING DOWN FOR 24 HOURS OF CENTRAL MARKET AND OTHER BUSINESSES DOMINATED BY INDIANS. THESE MANIFESTATIONS NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 19, AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00216 01 OF 02 152116Z

ROUGHLY MID-POINT OF CONFERENCE, WITH POSSIBLE PRESENTATION OF

PETITION PROTESTING INDEPENDENCE ARRANGEMENTS TO DUTCH DELEGATION AT HOTEL HEADQUARTERS. VHP ACTIVISTS ALSO PLAN TO INTERCEPT DEN UYL AND PARTY AT MAJOR BRIDGE BETWEEN PARAMARIBO AND AIRPORT, WHEN THEY ARRIVE EARLY TOMORROW MORNING, IN EFFORT PRESENT PETITION THERE. LARGE CONTINGENT OF POLICE WILL BE ON HAND TO PREVENT THIS, PERHAPS UNWISELY.

3. VHP SOURCE TOLD ME ABOUT TEN THOUSAND INDIANS, MAINLY FROM COUNTRYSIDE, EXPECTED TO APPEAR FOR DEMONSTRATION, WITH SOME INDONESIANS MUSTERED BY IJAVANESE DISSIDENT, SUMOHARDJO, RECENTLY OUSTED FROM GOVERNING COALITION (NPK). ALL HAVE BEEN ASKED TO WEAR MOURNING ATTIRE.

4. INDIANS, APPREHENSIVE OF FUTURE UNDER CREOLE DOMINATED GOVERNMENT, CLEARLY SEE TRI-PARTITE CONFERENCE AS LAST CHANCE TO GAIN GON SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES THEY DEMAND AND TO PRESSURE GOS INTO PERMITTING GREATER OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION IN INDEPENDENCE PROCESS. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, INDIANS WANT GUARANTEES OF NON-DISCRIMINATION BY RACE, ADOPTION OF NEW CONSTITUTION BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF STATEN, REQUIRING OPPOSITION SUPPORT (NPK WANTS SIMPLE MAJORITY), AN ELECTED PRESIDENT (NPK WANTS TO APPOINT), A SPECIAL CIVIL LIBERTIES COURT, A MULTI-RACIAW ARMY (NOW LARGELY CREOLE), AND NUMBER OF LESSER CONCESSIONS.

5. POSITION OF LACHMON IS AMBIGUOUS. HE HAS CALLED FOR NON-VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT INTERNAL AFFAIRS MIN OOF, WHOSE HOUSE WAS STONED LAST NIGHT, BLAMES LACHMON AS INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT BURNING OF FRAME BUILDING CONTAINING REGISTRATION AND PASSPORT RECORDS SINCE LATTER HAD RECOMMENDED THAT FOLLOWERS BOYCOTT NEW REGISTRATION AND IDENTITY CARD PROGRAM BECAUSE IT WOULD PREJUDICE "RIGHT" TO CHOOSE CITIZENSHIP AFTER INDEPENDENCE. OOF REASONED PUBLICLY THAT EXTREMIST VHP MEMBERS READ THIS AS CONDONING DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS AND ACTED ACCORDINGLY. LACHMON HAS DENIED ANY CONNECTION THIS OR OTHER FIRES AND INEMOTIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE PROMISED SUE OOF AND GIVE PROCEEDS TO CHARITY.

6. THOUGH OOF AND DEPUTY MINPRESIDENT VAN GENDEREN HOLD LACHMON PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECORDS BURNING AND THIS MORNING'S CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARAMA 00216 01 OF 02 152116Z

ARSON ATTEMPTS, IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT LACHMON HAS LOST CONTROL OF YOUNG EXTREMIST ELEMENTS TO ALWIN MUNGRA, VHP VICE CHAIRMAN. LOCAL SECURITY CHIEF HAS COMPLAINED TO ME OF DISORGANIZATION OF VHP AND RESULTING DIFFICULTY OF CONDUCTING SURVEILLANCE. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE PROFF THAT MUNGRA, AN OUTSPOKEN HOT-HEAD, AND A FEW OTHER VHP LEADERS HAVE INCITED NUMBERS OF VHP YOUTH TO ARSON AND THAT HE IS MORE THAN ANYONE TO BLAME FOR THE FIRES.

7. ONE POSSIBLE BRIGHT SPOT IN RAPIDLY POLARIZING SITUATION IS MEETING SCHEDULED LATER TODAY BETWEEN LACHMON AND MUNGRA AND COALITION LEADERS MINPRES ARRON, DEPUTY MINPRES VAN GENDEREN, ECONMIN BRUMA, ARRANGED BY FOUR MAJOR LABOR FEDERATIONS IN EFFORT COOL DOWN MATTERS. (FEDERATIONS HAVE GONE ON RECORD AS DEPLORING RACIAL POLITICS.) LAST NIGHT'S EVENTS HAVE PREJUDICED OUTCOME OF LONG-AWAITED FACE-TO-FACE MEETING OF RIVALS, HOWEVER, SINCE VAN GENDEREN TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT PRESSURE VHP EXERTING THROUGH RECENT ACTS IS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT COALITION PLANS VERY FORCEFUL APPROACH. COALITION WILL HAVE HARDER TIME THAN EVER ACCEPTING EVEN A FEW OF THE WELL-KNOWN CONCESSIONS VHP HAS BEEN DEMANDING AT PRESS CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC MEETINGS.

8. MEANWHILE, TRI-PARTITE TALKS THEMSELVES, OVER-SHADOWED BY LOCAL PARTISAN TURBULENCE, HAVE BEEN PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AT LOWER LEVELS PENDING DUTCH PRIMEMIN ARRIVAL. THESE HAVE CENTERED ON CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS, BORDER QUESTIONS INVOLVING FRENCH GUIANY AND GUYANA, DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND AGENDA FOR MAIN TALKS THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT WEEK. MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS REMAIN EXTENT AND DURATION OF DUTCH DEVELOPMENT AID (GON THINKING IN TERMS OF NF2 MILLION WHILE GOS SPEAKS OF SF6 MILLION) AND SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SURINAMERS; GOS REQUESTING UNLIMITED ACCESS TO AND RIGHT TO WORK IN HOLLAND.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00216 02 OF 02 152102Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 EB-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /089 W

----- 042743

O 151915Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2015

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0216

9. COMMENT: THERE IS BARE CHANCE THAT TWO SIDES, WITH POSSIBLE BEHIND-SCENES URGING OF VISITING DUTCH, WILL WORK OUT SOME OF THEIR DIFFERENCES AT TODAY'S LABOR-SPONSORED MEETING. BUT THE ARSON ATTEMPTS, IF THEIR VHP ATTRIBUTION IS CORRECT, HAVE BACKFIRED BADLY AND ANY ACCOMMODATION WILL NOW BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT OF ATTAINMENT. THE FIRES AND PROMISED DEMONSTRATIONS AND BOYCOTT MAY SPUR THE WORRIED DUTCH TO ASSUME MORE ACTIVE CONCILIATION ROLE IN THIS UNWELCOME SITUATION (CALL-OUT OF DUTCH GARRISON WOULD MAKE SHAMBLES OF CONFERENCE), BUT THESE EVENTS WILL MAINLY FIRM DUTCH RESOLVE TO MOVE ON IN NOVEMBER. HOPEFUL NOTE IS SUPPORT EXPRESSED BY SEVERAL COALITION STATES MEMBERS FOR TODAY'S NPK-VHP TALKS IN INTEREST BIPARTISAN PEACE.

10. NPK MUST SHARE LARGE MEASURE OF BLAME FOR CURRENT TENSION. ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN LARGELY DEAF TO INDIAN IMPORTUNITIES FOR SHARE IN PREPARATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE. (MOST, INCLUDING LACHMON, HAVE DROPPED OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.) AND INDIANS SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT THE IDEA THAT COUNTRY'S LARGEST COMMUNITY REMAIN WITHOUT ANY REAL VOICE IN ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL AFFECT ALL SURINAMERS. MUCH EMOTION, FEELINGS OF LOST PRIDE AND FACE, HAS BUILT OVER ISSUE OF PARTICIPATION. BUT MANY ON BOTH SIDES ARE TIRED OF CONTINUED CONFRONTATION AND THERE IS LITTLE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00216 02 OF 02 152102Z

DOUBT THAT A SIGNIFICANT GESTURE OF UNDERSTANDING TOWARD THE INDIANS AS THE LOYAL OPPOSITION WOULD BE WELCOMED AND BRING PROMPT RETURNS IN TERMS OF COOPERATION AND A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF RACIAL ANIMOSITY.

11. NOTE: WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MILITARY AND SECURITY SERVICES TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE EFFECT OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES ON FOREIGNERS AND THEIR PROPERTY. I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT NOTHING OF THE KIND IS EXPECTED (1973 RIOTS AFFECTED ONLY LOCAL POPULATION) BUT WE WILL OF COURSE REMAIN ALERT TO DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THIS.
FLANEGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, INDEPENDENCE, INDIANS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, MINORITIES, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARAMA00216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750171-0633
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750549/aaaabsbx.tel
Line Count: 210
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by WorreISW>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REALM TALKS BRING OPPOSITION TURBULENCE
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, PDEV, PINS, NL, NS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006